FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service

DATE: May 6, 2002

USDA WHOLE EGGS PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase whole eggs for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Offers will be invited from the trade for whole eggs in one or more of the following forms:

<u>Thirty-pound containers (082030)</u> - Frozen whole eggs (without color stabilizer) packed in a full opening type plastic container with snap-on type lid, 30 pounds (13.61 kg) net in each plastic container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,320 shipping containers totaling 39,600 pounds (17,962 kg).

<u>Five-pound cartons (082065)</u> - Frozen homogenized whole eggs with a color stabilizer packaged 5 pounds (2.27 kg) net weight in a pitcher-pour type, polyethylene-coated paperboard carton, and packed six 5-pound (2.27 kg) cartons per fiberboard shipping container with 30 pounds (13.61 kg) net weight. A purchase unit will consist of 1,334 shipping containers totaling 40,020 pounds (18,153 kg).

<u>Bulk liquid whole eggs (083090)</u> - Bulk liquid whole eggs (without color stabilizer) for further processing, packed and shipped in insulated tankers, 48,000 pounds (21,772 kg) net weight in each tanker. A purchase unit will total 48,000 pounds (21,772 kg).

Purchases of whole eggs are in response to the April 16 announcement by the Department to purchase egg products. This purchase will provide a nutritious product for participants in domestic feeding programs and also provide some assistance for producers who have faced difficult economic times.

Invitation No. 1 inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, May 13, is being issued this week. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, May 17, for delivery from June 16 to June 30. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the second and fourth Monday of each month.

As stated in the September 21 Notice to the Trade, all offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?. Offers submitted on and after October 1, 2001, by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive. Certifications,

representations, and warranties will be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. Certifications must be received by the Contracting Officer prior to submitting a bid. Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-257, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-257, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Whole Eggs dated May 2000, as amended, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

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